IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Chad Rados, : Civil Action No.: 7:14-cv-163(HL)

Plaintiff,

v.

Goldberg & Peretti, LLC; and DOES 1-10, : COMPLAINT

inclusive, : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Chad Rados, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Chad Rados ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Quitman, Georgia, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant Goldberg & Peretti, LLC ("Goldberg"), is a California business entity with an address of 1191 Magnolia Ave, Suite #D-217, Corona, California 92879, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Goldberg and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. Goldberg at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meet the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Goldberg for collection, or Goldberg was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Goldberg Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. On or about August 26, 2014 and August 27, 2014, Goldberg called Plaintiff's fiancé in an attempt to collect the Debt.
- 13. During the aforementioned conversations, Goldberg threatened to serve Plaintiff with "papers" if he did not pay the Debt that day.
 - 14. To date, Goldberg has not served Plaintiff with any "papers."

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 15. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 16. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 17. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 18. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) in that Defendants threatened to take legal action, without actually intending to do so.
- 19. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 21. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 22. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II

<u>VIOLATION OF THE GEORGIA FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT,</u>

O.C.G.A. § 10-1-390, et seq.

23. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 24. The Plaintiff is a "consumer" as the term is defined by O.C.G.A. § 10-1-392(6).
- 25. The Plaintiff incurred a Debt as a result of engaging into "[c]onsumer transactions" as the term is defined by O.C.G.A. § 10-1-392(10).
- 26. The Defendants' unfair or deceptive acts to collect the Debt occurred in commerce, in violation of O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a).
- 27. The Plaintiff suffered mental anguish, emotional distress and other damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 28. Defendant's failure to comply with these provisions constitutes an unfair or deceptive act under O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a) and, as such, the Plaintiff is entitled to damages plus reasonable attorney's fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

- Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) and O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(a) against Defendants;
- Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against Defendants;
- 3. Treble damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(c) against Defendants;
- Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
 § 1692k(a)(3) and O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(d) against Defendants;
- 5. Actual damages from Defendants for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;

- 6. Punitive damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(a) against Defendants; and
- 7. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: October 17, 2014

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